



OLR RESEARCH REPORT

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TUITION WAIVERS FOR SENIORS

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This report provides a summary of the statutory tuition waiver requirements for seniors at public colleges and universities.

SUMMARY

State law requires the University of Connecticut (UConn), Connecticut State University (CSU), and the 12 regional community-technical colleges to waive tuition for Connecticut residents age 62 or older under certain conditions. The requirement, which was originally enacted by the legislature in 1974, does not cover extension courses funded from student fees. Seniors who take courses under the tuition waiver can apply credits earned toward a degree. According to UConn, 48 seniors received tuition waivers in FY 12. (We have not yet received a response regarding the other two from the Board of Regents of Higher Education.)

TUITION WAIVERS FOR SENIORS

At UConn or CSU, the tuition waiver for Connecticut residents age 62 or older applies when (1) the person is admitted to the institution and has enrolled in a degree program or (2) for a person not enrolled in a degree program if, at the end of the registration, there are enough paying students enrolled in the course to warrant offering it and there is enough room in the class for the person after all paying students have been accommodated ([CGS §§ 10a-105\(e\)\(3\)](#) and [10a-99\(d\)\(3\)](#)).

At community-technical colleges, seniors can use their tuition waivers only when (1) space is available in a course after all paying students have been accommodated and (2) there are enough paying students for the college to offer the class. This “space-available” requirement applies even to seniors enrolled in degree programs ([CGS § 10a-77\(d\)\(3\)](#)).

EXTENSION COURSES

The statutory tuition waivers apply only to courses paid for out of institutions’ tuition revenue and not “extension-fund” courses paid for from student fees. Extension courses (e.g., summer and evening classes) are often noncredit enrichment or continuing education courses that are not part of degree programs. However, CSU currently waives tuition for extension courses if seniors are (1) enrolled in a degree program or (2) space is available at the end of the regular registration period.

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